

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors
Summary* of New Rule Changes Implementing Tiered Levels of Licensure

1200-30-01-.02 Scope of Practice.

- (1) A Level I Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor may provide alcohol and drug abuse counseling services in an alcohol and drug abuse treatment program or a recovery support program, or any program providing alcohol and drug abuse services other than a private practice in which the Level I Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor is self-employed. Such services shall include the eight (8) domains listed in T.C.A. § 68-24-606.
- (2) A Level II Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor may provide alcohol and drug abuse counseling services in an alcohol and drug abuse treatment program or a recovery support program, or any program providing alcohol and drug abuse services or in private practice. Such services shall include the eight (8) domains listed in T.C.A. § 68-24-606. A Level II Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor may apply to the Board to become a Qualified Clinical Supervisor after meeting the Board's requirements for such credential.
- (3) Counseling for alcohol and other drugs of abuse includes: the evaluation and treatment of problems, misperceptions and misconceptions of persons who abuse mood-altering chemicals. Counseling for alcohol and other drugs of abuse includes the provision of the eight (8) domains listed in T.C.A. § 68-24-606.
- (4) Both Level I and Level II Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors may evaluate and treat persons who have been significantly affected by compulsive gambling disorder as long as the licensee has completed no less than sixty (60) additional hours of specialized Board-approved education related to compulsive gambling disorder, annual continuing education hours or a combination thereof. The licensee's clinically supervised counseling experience must have included contact with no less than ten
(10) patients impacted by a compulsive gambling disorder under the supervision of a supervisor who had obtained no less than sixty (60) formal classroom hours of instruction related to compulsive gambling disorder.
- (5) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as permitting any person licensed as a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor to perform psychological testing intended to measure and/or diagnose mental illness. Consistent with each counselor's formal education and training, licensees may administer and utilize appropriate assessment instruments which identify elements of perceptual inability to recognize empirical facts, problems of appropriately displaying emotions and inappropriate responses to the environment of individuals, couples and families as part of the alcohol and other drugs of abuse therapy process or in the development of a treatment plan in the context of chemical abuse systems.
- (6) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed as permitting an individual licensed as a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor to administer, dispense, or prescribe drugs or in any manner engage in the practice of medicine as defined by Tennessee Law.
- (7) The professional practice domains and transdisciplinary competencies in which Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors may engage are as follows:
 - (a) Clinical Evaluation;
 - (b) Treatment Planning;
 - (c) Referral;
 - (d) Service Coordination;

- (e) Counseling;
- (f) Client, family, and community education;
- (g) Documentation; and,
- (h) Professional and ethical responsibilities.

Rule 1200-30-01-.03 Necessity of Licensure

- (1) Only persons who are licensed by the Board may represent themselves or practice as Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors or hold themselves out to the public as being licensed by means of using a title on signs, mailboxes, address plates, letterheads, announcements, telephone listings, business cards, or other instruments of professional identification.

Rule 1200-30-01-.04 Qualifications for Licensure

- (1) Licensure by examination.
 - (a) Prior to submitting an application to become a Level I Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor, each of the following minimum qualifications must be met:
 1. The applicant must have attained twenty-one (21) years of age.
 2. The applicant must be highly regarded as possessing good moral character and professional ethics, as specified in Rule 1200-30-01-.13.
 3. The applicant must have a high school diploma or a high school equivalency diploma.
 4. The applicant must have completed six thousand (6000) hours of experience where the applicant has performed all of the eight (8) domains, as listed in TCA § 68-24-606, while providing alcohol and drug abuse counseling services under the direct supervision of a Qualified Clinical Supervisor who meets the requirements of the rules of the Board.
 5. The applicant must have completed two hundred seventy (270) total hours of alcohol and drug abuse counseling education and training within the eight domains, as listed in TCA § 68-24-606. Six (6) hours of the 270 total hours of education shall pertain to alcohol and drug abuse counseling professional ethics.
 6. Applicant must have completed a written philosophy of treatment, as defined in the licensure application.
 7. The applicant must pass a jurisprudence examination approved by the Board.
 8. The applicant must pass the National Certified Addiction Counselor (NCAC) Level I written examination that is administered by the National Certification Commission for Addiction Professionals (NCC AP) or the Master Addiction Counselor (MAC) written examination.
 - (b) Prior to submitting an application to become a Level II Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor, each of the following minimum qualifications must be met:
 1. The applicant must have attained twenty-one (21) years of age.
 2. The applicant must be highly regarded as possessing good moral character and professional ethics, as specified in Rule 1200-30-01-.13.

3. The applicant must:
 - (i) Have a bachelor's degree in a behavioral health related field or higher level degree in a non-behavioral health related field from an accredited institution of higher learning, and submit an official transcript, have completed two (2) years of full time or four thousand (4000) hours of experience while providing alcohol and drug abuse counseling services under the direct supervision of a Qualified Clinical Supervisor who meets the requirements of the rules of the Board and have alcohol and drug abuse counseling education and training within the eight domains, as listed in TCA § 68-24-606.
 - (ii) Have a master's or higher level degree in a behavioral health related field from an accredited institution of higher learning, and submit an official transcript, and have completed one (1) year of full time experience or two thousand (2000) hours of experience while providing alcohol and drug abuse counseling services under the direct supervision of a Qualified Clinical Supervisor who meets the requirements of the rules of the Board and have alcohol and drug abuse counseling education and training within the eight domains, as listed in TCA § 68-24-606.
4. The applicant must have completed a written philosophy of treatment, as defined in the licensure application.
5. The applicant must pass a jurisprudence examination approved by the Board.
6. The applicant must pass the National Certified Addiction Counselor (NCAC) Level II written examination that is administered by the National Certification Commission for Addiction Professionals (NCC AP) or the Master Addiction Counselor (MAC) written examination.
7. The applicant must pass an oral examination demonstrating competency in the eight (8) domains listed in T.C.A. § 68-24-606.
8. Each person currently licensed in good standing as a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor before January 1, 2016 shall thereafter be licensed as a Level II Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor. The Board will not impose any additional fee or require any additional application for the issuance of a license pursuant to this section.

Rule 1200-30-01-.08 Examinations

In addition to having filed an application, an individual seeking licensure by examination as a Level I Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor shall be required to successfully complete the Board's written and jurisprudence examinations, and an individual seeking licensure by examination as a Level II Licensed Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor shall be required to successfully complete the Board's oral, written, and jurisprudence examinations.

- * *Please note this is a summary of the new rule changes and does not include each and every change to the rules. Please read the rulemaking document to view all the changes.*
- * *Please call the Board Administrative Office for further information at (615) 741-5735 or (800) 778-4123.*